The Bread Loaf School of English

PRESENTS

JOHNNY EYRE & JANE EYRE

Adapted and Directed by Brian McEleney
2022

Jane Eyre

By Brian McEleney
adapted from the novel by Charlotte Brontë

Directed by Brian McEleney
with original music by Brad Goren-Wilson

CAST
in order of appearance

Cherie Corinne Rice*..... Jane Eyre
Cindy Rosenthal*..... Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Fairfax
Louis Reyes McWilliams* ..... John Reed, St. John Rivers
Victoria Perez ..... Bessie, Ensemble
Ella Frigyik..... Miss Abbot, Farm Woman, Ensemble
Brad Goren-Wilson..... Mr. Brocklehurst, Clergyman, John (Ferndean)
Anna Russell Thornton ..... Miss Temple, Louisa, Ensemble
Shelley Fort*..... Helen, Diana
Khaia Gordon..... Adele, Ensemble
Ben Steinfeld* ..... Edward Rochester
Megan Philippi ..... Grace Poole, Christine, Ensemble
Matt Lytle* ..... Mr. Eshton, Mason
Yili Fan ..... Mary, Lady Lynn, Woman, Ensemble
Mimi Marstaller ..... Mrs. Dent, Miss Oliver, Ensemble
Mary Baillie ..... Mrs. Ingram, Hannah, Ensemble
Madison Middleton ..... Miss Ingram, Ensemble
Grant Chapman* ..... Teddy, Briggs, Innkeeper
Arielle Ackerman ..... Amy, Shopkeeper, Ensemble
Vivien Thorne ..... Farm Girl, Ensemble

Please be aware that *Jane Eyre* includes scenes suggestive of sexual violence.

Johnny Eyre

By Brian McEleney
adapted from the novel by Charlotte Brontë

Directed by Brian McEleney
with original music by Brad Goren-Wilson

CAST
in order of appearance

Jim Pratzon ..... Mr. Reed, Mr. Fairfax, Woman
Grant Chapman* ..... Johnny Eyre
Matt Lytle* ..... Edward Rochester, Nigel, Father Templeton
Ben Steinfeld* ..... Robert, Brother Peter, Doctor
Louis Reyes McWilliams* ..... Father Lyons, Brother Daniel, Principal
Brad Goren-Wilson ..... Abbot, Hector, Brother Augustine
Madison Middleton ..... Albert, Farm Boy
Shelley Fort* ..... Shopkeeper, Rosamund Oliver
Cherie Corrine Rice* ..... Farmer, Innkeeper
Cindy Rosenthal* ..... Bertha Mason

*Appearing courtesy of Actors' Equity Association (AEA)

Please be aware that *Johnny Eyre* includes scenes and language depicting sexual violence and mature language, including homophobic slurs.

Recording devices of any sort are strictly prohibited.

Masks are required throughout the performance.
Thank you for your cooperation.

ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION 1913

Actors' Equity Association (AEA) was founded in 1913 as the first of the American Actor unions. Equity's mission is to advance, promote and foster the art of theatre as an essential component of our society. Today, Equity represents more than 40,000 actors, singers, dancers and stage managers working in hundreds of theatres across the United States. Equity members are dedicated to working in the theatre as a profession, upholding the highest artistic standards.

Equity negotiates wages and working conditions and provides a wide range of benefits including health and pension plans for its members. Through its agreement with Equity, this theatre has committed to the fair treatment of the actors and stage managers employed in this production.

AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. For more information, visit www.actorsequity.org.

ARTISTIC STAFF

Adapter and Director	Brian McEleney
Composer	Brad Goren-Wilson
Set Designer	Michael McGarty
Lighting Designer	Bryon Winn
Costume Designer	Rachel Dulude
Costume Liaison	Erin Meghan Donnelly

MANAGEMENT STAFF

Technical Director	Andrew Nyberg
Stage Manager	Amy Patricia Stern*
Theatre Manager	Lianna Bessette

TECHNICAL STAFF

Master Carpenter	Jake Brown
Master Electrician	Titus O'Neil
Swing Technician	Catherine Farrell
Props Master/Scenic Artist	Katie Phillips

SPECIAL THANKS

Emily Bartels, Lyndon Dominique, Dana Olsen, Elaine Lathrop, Karen Browne, Edward and Victoria Brown and the front desk Staff, Nick Sirianno, Darren Zeno and the kitchen staff, Justin Allen and the facilities and housekeeping crew, Heath Hansum, Trinity Repertory Company, the Middlebury College Department of Theatre and Dance

FROM THE DIRECTOR

I started working on an adaptation of *Jane Eyre* for Bread Loaf in the fall of 2019, in preparation for a summer 2020 production. I had always been very interested in the novel as the source for a potential Bread Loaf play, but struggled to find my own way into it as a writer, given its stature as one of the most beloved of novels written by women in nineteenth century England. In tracing Jane's attempts to escape from the punishing, judgmental societal voices aimed toward keeping her locked in the attic/red room of strict class and gender identity, I began to find common ground with my own struggles against the voices that plagued me as a young gay man growing up in the 1950s and 60s in America. These voices became the structure of my adaptation, as well as the vehicle for the group ensemble work that is essential to theatre at Bread Loaf.

The 2020 production, of course, was not to be. However, after rehearsing and performing a virtual reading of the first act, and after explaining the formal ideas behind the adaptation, a couple of my fellow actors encouraged me to take my ideas further—to actually write a gay male version of *Jane Eyre*. *Johnny Eyre* became my COVID project, and this summer I'm excited to share with you the results of three years of work.

This year the Bread Loaf Acting Ensemble is presenting these two plays in conversation with each other as staged readings; the actors have been extraordinarily valiant in taking on the added labor of rehearsing two plays in the time usually allotted to one. The double readings are modeled on and have been inspired by the work of the Acting Ensemble in Bread Loaf classrooms, which often involves presenting alternate interpretations of a text in order to provoke conversation and analysis. I hope that these two adaptations will inspire our Bread Loaf audience to think more deeply and personally about Charlotte Bronte's novel and the issues it raises, and to engage in the kind of deep conversation that we have all come to treasure as the core of our work as readers, teachers and artists.

Many people have given me invaluable advice and feedback during the writing of these adaptations. I would especially like to acknowledge the wise and creative support of a few of them: Isobel Armstrong, Stephen Berenson, Stephen Thorne, Jennifer Mudge, Cindy Rosenthal, and Curt Columbus. I feel tremendously blessed to be surrounded by so many friends and colleagues who have encouraged my efforts as a writer/adapter.

BREAD LOAF ACTING ENSEMBLE

Grant Chapman (Teddy, Briggs, Innkeeper in *Jane Eyre*; Johnny in *Johnny Eyre)* is so happy to be joining the Bread Loaf Acting Ensemble for the first time. Recent appearances elsewhere include the Asolo Rep, Alliance Theatre, and the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. Grant is a founding member of Seattle-based company the Williams Project, which strives to make theatrical excellence accessible to diverse and engaged audiences while paying artists a living wage. A graduate of Brown University/Trinity Rep MFA programs, Grant has also taught acting, voice, and speech for NYU Tisch, the Atlantic Acting School, and Barnard College.

Shelley Fort (Helen, Diana in *Jane Eyre*; Shopkeeper, Rosamund Oliver in *Johnny Eyre)* is happy to be back on the mountain! An LA-based actor and producer, she's most proud of her recent short film *Pieces of a Memory* (Micheaux Film Fest). Some of her favorite roles include Camae, *The Mountaintop*; Zoe, *An Octoroon*, and Cressida in BL's *Troilus and Cressida*. Her writing has been seen at the National Black Theater, the Fire This Time Fest, and the Classical Theatre of Harlem. Her dad (poet

Charles Fort) is an alum of the BL Writers' Conferences. BA Kenyon College, MFA Brown U.

Brad Goren-Wilson (Composer; Brocklehurst, Clergyman, John in *Jane Eyre*; Abbot, Hector, Brother Augustine in *Johnny Eyre*) is a professional actor and playwright based in Salem, Massachusetts. Previous Bread Loaf credits include *A Tale of Two Cities* (2018), *Jane Eyre* (2020), and *Re-Emergence* (2021). He has also performed at Trinity Rep, McCarter Theater, Theater at Monmouth, HERE Arts, and Carnegie Hall. As a playwright, he was a winner of the Purple Crayon PlayGround Festival 2019, a semifinalist for the Blue Ink Award 2020, and a finalist for the Kitchen Dog New Works Festival 2020. www.bradgorenwilson.com.

Matt Lytle (Mr. Eshton, Mason in *Jane Eyre*; Edward Rochester, Nigel, Father Templeton in *Johnny Eyre*) is honored to join the Bread Loaf Acting Ensemble for his first very first summer! He lives in NYC, where he works as an actor and acting coach. He holds his BFA from Boston University and his MFA from Brown/Trinity Rep. He spent a semester at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, where he studied Shakespearean and Restoration performance. CREDITS: *Romeo & Juliet* (Romeo; Alabama Shakespeare Festival), *Death of a Salesman* (Biff; Trinity Rep), Shakespeare Festival St. Louis, Nashville Shakespeare, Cincinnati Shakespeare and Kentucky Shakespeare. As always, love to my Family and Ori.

Louis Reyes McWilliams (John Reed, St. John Rivers in *Jane Eyre*; Father Lyons, Brother Daniel, Principal in *Johnny Eyre*) is thrilled to return to Bread Loaf for his second summer. He is a Los Angeles based actor, writer, and teaching artist, and a graduate of Stanford University (BA) and Brown/Trinity Rep (MFA). His acting credits include work in New York at the Public Theater and the Flea, as well as plays at regional theaters across the country. He previously appeared at Bread Loaf in *A Tale of Two Cities*.

Madison Middleton (Miss Ingram, Ensemble in *Jane Eyre*; Albert, Farmboy in *Johnny Eyre*) is a Middlebury undergraduate joint-majoring in theatre and music. They most recently worked on their senior thesis *Botticelli in the Fire* (Sandro Botticelli, Sound Design, Original Composition). Select Middlebury acting credits: *Company* (Joanne), *Orphan Muses* (Isabelle), *The Light in the Piazza* (Margaret Johnson), *Julius Caesar* (Brutus). They look forward to writing their playwriting thesis and directing Paula Vogel's *And Baby Makes Seven* this fall and winter. They're interested in musical and theatrical world-building, queerness, puppetry, magic, and justice through art-making. Madison is beyond thrilled to join the BLSE Acting Ensemble and hopes to return in the future!

Cherie Corinne Rice (Jane in *Jane Eyre*; Farmer, Innkeeper in *Johnny Eyre*) is an actor, playwright, director, producer, dialect coach, educator, and founder of Guided Inspiration LLC, guidedinspo.com. Her acting credits include *Extramundane* (Amazon Prime), *Nightcap* (Hulu), *Nurse Jackie* (Showtime), *The White Devil* (Off-B'way), *Twelfth Night* (Trinity Rep), *Romeo & Juliet* (SFSTL). Rice is a graduate of the Brown University/Trinity Rep MFA acting program and UC Berkeley's theater and performance studies program.

Cindy Rosenthal (Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Fairfax in *Jane Eyre*; Bertha Mason in *Johnny Eyre*) lives in Manhattan and is a founding member of the BL Acting Ensemble (since 1986). She is thrilled to be back on this magical mountain in these two wonderful adaptations. Favorite BL roles include the Countess in *All's Well*, Emilia in *Othello*, and the Nurse in *Romeo and Juliet*. She is professor of drama and women's studies at Hofstra University, where she will direct *Cymbeline* in Fall 2022. Her book, *Ellen Stewart Presents: Fifty Years of La MaMa Experimental Theatre* won the 2018 George Freedley Memorial Award.

Ben Steinfeld (Rochester in *Jane Eyre*; Robert, Father Peter in *Johnny Eyre*) is delighted to return to Bread Loaf as a member of the acting ensemble for the fourth time. He has acted on Broadway, at leading theaters in New York and London, and at regional theaters all over the country. He is coartistic director of the celebrated Fiasco Theater, and teaches at NYU-Gallatin. This summer, Ben is teaching a BL course on Stephen Sondheim; hopefully, this will prove useful in helping him complete the two musicals he is writing. (Ben, not Sondheim).

COMMUNITY ACTORS

Arielle Ackerman (Amy, Shopkeeper, Ensemble in *Jane Eyre*) hails from Miami, Florida, but comes to Bread Loaf by way of Los Angeles. This is her first year on the mountain, and her first Bread Loaf production. A writer and only sometimes actress, she is excited and grateful for the opportunity to work alongside the BL Acting Ensemble and fellow Loafers.

Mary Baillie (Lady Ingram, Hannah, Ensemble in *Jane Eyre*) is an anthropology and theatre graduate from Middlebury College who currently teaches drama in Scotland. She has participated in numerous plays including *9 to 5*, *Cloud Tectonics*, *Women of Troy*, *Late: A Cowboy Song*, *4.48 Psychosis*, and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. She is excited to return to acting after many years of directing and design. She hopes you enjoy this incredible show!

Yili Fan (Mary, Lady Lynn, Woman, Ensemble in *Jane Eyre*) is an award-winning scriptwriter and director of international theater and film festivals, as well as a theater and film educator. Ms. Fan's debut educational documentary, *The Little Prince with a Mask*, has been selected by 12 international film festivals and has won the Best Short Documentary at the Lacorne International Film Festival 2021 in Paris, France; the Jury Award at the Children's Short Film Festival in the UK; and the Jury Award at the Samskara International Festival in India. *Fill the Space* is a theatrical method that Ms. Fan has been refining for ten years.

Ella Frigyik (Miss Abbot, Farmwoman, Ensemble in *Jane Eyre*) is a researcher from Nairobi, Kenya, currently working on all things bugs and climate in the Boston area. They're grateful to begin their first year at Bread Loaf and learn more about performance and orality from the wonderful actors in the community and ensemble.

Khaia Gordon (Adele, Ensemble in *Jane Eyre*) Khaia is 10 years old, and her name is pronounced (hi-yah). Her mom works at Bread Loaf, and her dad is just along for the ride. This is her first time being in a play and her 10th summer being at Bread Loaf. She is best friends with Vivien Thorne and spends time with her 24/7!

Mimi Marstaller (Mrs. Dent, Miss Oliver, Ensemble in *Jane Eyre*) is always asking her students to dramatize things in class and to create scenes of their own, so she wanted to walk the walk and try acting in a real performance. She teaches English to 11th and 12th graders at a public school in Salt Lake City, Utah. She has a knack for remembering lines from movies, so most of her acting experience has been reciting performances for herself as she goes about her business.

Victoria Perez (Bessie, Ensemble in *Jane Eyre*) is happy to finally be attending Bread Loaf classes in person after two years on Zoom. She works as a special education liaison in Arlington Public Schools and also coteaches 10th grade English classes. Other than participating in church musicals as a child, this will be her first time acting in a play, so she's excited to try something new and learn from the cast and crew.

Megan Philippi (Grace Poole, Christine, Ensemble in *Jane Eyre*) is in her second year of Bread Loaf and is thrilled to be participating in *Jane Eyre* while experiencing her first in-person summer. During the rest of the year, she works as an assistant fifth grade teacher and theater-maker in Chicago. Megan is loving her poetry and speculative fiction classes and looks forward to applying lessons from both when she directs the apocalyptic play *Not Not Not Not Not Enough Oxygen* at Haven Chicago this fall.

Jim Pratzon (Mr. Reed, Fairfax in *Johnny Eyre*) is a founding faculty member at Lyons Community School in Brooklyn, where he is the director of the Lyons' Needs Theatre Company. In a previous life, Jim appeared regionally and OOB in over a dozen Shakespeare roles as well as *On the Verge*, *What the Butler Saw*, *The Miser*, and *Mission: Byzantium!* Jim has recorded ten audiobooks for the New York Public Library, including *The Complete Short Stories of H.P. Lovecraft*, *the unabridged Martin Chuzzlewit*, and *Days of Devotion: Daily Meditations of Pope John Paul II*. He is working on his first volume of poetry, entitled *Raw Mornings*.

Vivien Thorne's (Farmgirl, Ensemble in *Jane Eyre*) first official play was *A Christmas Carol* in 2019. They still aim to be in more plays and work harder. This is her 12th summer at Bread Loaf, and they love spending time with their friend Khaia Gordon.

Anna Russell Thornton (Miss Temple, Louisa, Ensemble in *Jane Eyre*) is a ninth grade English teacher living in Houston, Texas. She plans to start a drama club at her school this fall, with hopes to grow it into a full-fledged program in the future. She misses her years as a theatre kid, and she is grateful for the opportunity to perform with and learn from these talented people.

ARTISTIC STAFF

Erin Meghan Donnelly (Costume Liaison) is loafing remotely this summer in order to accommodate a new career in Health Equity and Advocacy. Before making the switch to community work, she spent 15 years with Trinity Repertory Company's costume shop and six glorious summers at Bread Loaf. She sends all her love and support to the Little Theatre and her endless gratitude to many special people that make Bread Loaf theatre magic year after year.

Based in Providence, Rhode Island, **Rachel Dulude** (Costume Designer) is a professional actor and audiobook narrator. She has coordinated costumes at Bread Loaf for the past seven summers, and is so happy to be back!

Brian McEleney (Adapter and Director) is head of the BLSE Theatre Program, and founding director of the Brown University/ Trinity Rep MFA programs. He has previously directed Bread Loaf productions of *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *Troilus and Cressida*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Blues for Mister Charlie*, *USA*, *Othello,* and his own adaptation of *A Tale of Two Cities*.

Michael McGarty (Set Designer), started working at Bread Loaf in 1998 with the *Threepenny Opera*. He is a resident set designer at Trinity Rep and an adjunct

professor of set design at Rhode Island School of Design.

Bryon Winn (Lighting Designer) is delighted to be returning to Bread Loaf for his 20th season. Bryon's theatre design work has been seen at Portland Stage Company, Trinity Rep, Theatre de la Jeune Lune, and Florida Studio Theatre. Bryon also serves as the director of theatre at the University of Iowa.

MANAGEMENT STAFF

Lianna Bessette (Theatre Manager) graduated from Bread Loaf in 2021 and is thrilled to be back on campus working on her fourth Bread Loaf production. She lives in the Boston area and teaches English at Arlington High School, where she also serves as the production manager for their plays and musicals.

Andrew Nyberg (Technical Director) has been a member of the Bread Loaf technical theatre staff since 2015. Off the mountain, he is a lead carpenter with Pink Sparrow Design & Fabrication in Brooklyn, New York, and an occasional freelance scenic designer. In his inaugural year as technical director, he counts himself incredibly lucky to be surrounded by a team of such talented and kind friends.

Amy Patricia Stern (Stage Manager) is celebrating her 30th Bread Loaf, having graduated in 1996 and stage managed 25 productions. Favorite Bread Loaf credits: *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Othello, USA*, *To Kill a Mockingbird/Blues for Mister Charlie*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *A Streetcar Named Desire.*

TECHNICAL STAFF

Jake Brown (Master Carpenter) is elated to join the Bread Loaf community. This summer is Jake's first foray into theatre. He graduated from Vermont Woodworking School in 2018, and specializes in custom studio furniture in Minneapolis. His chair, "Alhambra," won best original design at the 2021 Northern Woods Exhibition. His work focuses on highlighting the beauty contained in the multifaceted grain structure of North America's beloved hardwoods.

Catherine Farrell (Swing Technician) Catherine Farrell is happy to be welcomed to the Bread Loaf community for her first year working on staff for the theatre. Off the mountain, Catherine is in her last year of undergrad at Drake University, where she will graduate with a BFA in acting and BA in magazine media. She works as a technical assistant in Drake Theatre's technical department and is excited to be utilizing the skills she has acquired here at Bread Loaf.

Katharine Izard (Student Costume Assistant) hails from the south, where she spends most of her time discovering earthworms with her dog. Having grown up in the theatre and majored in it in college, she has found in her adult life that singing show tunes helps with the craziness, but Disney songs haunt her. Wishing to eventually be known as the mad witch who lives in the upside down house someday, she likes to devote time to her brightly colored creations. Her dog's name is Luna and she used to be a comedian, but for lack of performance space she turned to reading, writing, and teaching as her outlet for captivation.

Titus O'Neil (Master Electrician) is the technical director/teacher for the Solebury School theatre department in New Hope, Pennsylvania. He has worked for a decade as a freelance lighting and scenic designer at many colleges and local theaters in the east/central Pennsylvania region including Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble, Bucknell University, and Lycoming College. This is Titus' third year on the mountain, working at the Burgess Meredith Little Theater, and he could not be more excited to be here and make art through whatever adversity these past years (and this summer) have brought.

Katie Phillips (Props Master and Scenic Artist) is excited to be back on the mountain for her ninth summer at Bread Loaf. Katie is a Minnesota based scenic and props designer. She has designed over 100 productions in the last 10 years. Katie is the production supervisor and properties manager for Artistry Theater in Bloomington, Minnesota. Katie has her BFA in theatre design/technology from Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Jenna Russell (Student Technical Assistant) is delighted to be working at the Little Theater this summer, learning so much about behind-the-scenes theatrical work. In her other life, Jenna is a high school teacher. When back home in Michigan, she also plays Dungeons and Dragons alongside fellow actors on Twitch (A Little Dicey DND.)